



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



34th DIRECTING COUNCIL
41st SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Washington D.C., 25-29 September 1989

RESOLUTION

CD34.11

**PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ERADICATION OF INDIGENOUS
TRANSMISSION OF WILD POLIOVIRUS**

THE 34th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having considered the progress report presented by the Director on the implementation of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) and the Plan of Action for the Eradication of Indigenous Transmission of Wild Poliovirus from the Americas by 1990;

Noting that all countries have adhered to the policies and strategies of the Program as outlined in previous Directing Council meetings on this subject, which translates the high priority accorded by Member Countries to this activity;

Taking note with satisfaction that immunization coverage with all EPI antigens has steadily increased, reaching historical high levels in 1988 in most countries and in the Region as a whole;

Considering that the English-speaking Caribbean countries, Canada, Cuba, and the United States of America have decided to eliminate measles;

Recognizing with enthusiasm the tremendous progress made during the last year toward polio eradication, which indicates that this goal will be virtually achieved by the end of 1990;

Acknowledging the contribution that these activities have made toward the strengthening of the health infrastructure; and

Considering that in spite of all these successes there are still nearly 4 million children born every year in the Hemisphere that do not receive the full benefit of immunization,

RESOLVES

1. To reiterate its thanks to the United States Agency for International Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, UNICEF, Canadian International Development Agency/Canadian Public Health Association, and Rotary International for the increased support to this program, and especially to Rotary International for its latest contribution, which helped intensify the "mop-up" operation.

2. To call to the attention of all Member Countries that the program has entered a critical phase and that increased political commitment and resources will be needed if the program is to succeed, that there is no room for complacency, and that, therefore, the policies and strategies set forth in Resolution CD33.R14 of the XXXIII Meeting of the Directing Council (1988)—that all polio-endemic countries should hold national immunization days at least twice a year as a complement to their national immunization program and institute aggressive disease surveillance—should be continued, and non-endemic countries should ensure that their high levels of immunization are maintained.

3. To request that Member Countries, polio-endemic and non-endemic, take steps to establish a weekly reporting network of flaccid paralysis, including negative reporting, to permit the prompt detection of any suspected case of the disease, so that aggressive investigation and control measures can be instituted.

4. To urge all Member Countries, particularly those still endemic for polio, to institute immediate "mop-up" operations as soon as a probable case is identified, and in all those districts which are at risk of polio transmission.

5. To urge Member Countries to consider the progress already attained toward the goal of polio eradication and to build on this success by:

a) Intensifying those actions geared to the control of neonatal tetanus, particularly through vaccination of all women of child-bearing age in those areas already identified as at high risk;

b) Intensifying vaccination with measles and DPT vaccines;

c) Increasing further immunization coverage by routine health services, instituting measures to eliminate the missed opportunities for vaccination in all health facilities by offering to vaccinate any eligible children or women of child-bearing age that visit these services.

6. To request that Member Countries and participating agencies decentralize their financial resources to the district level, in order that health workers in the local health system have the required resources to implement promptly the measures necessary to improve coverage and interrupt the transmission of polio.

7. To congratulate and support the English-speaking Caribbean countries on their initiative aimed at the elimination of measles in their countries by 1995, and the similar initiatives of Canada, Cuba, and the United States of America.

8. To request that the Director:

a) Institute a reward of US\$100 to the first person that reports in writing the first case of an outbreak (as defined in the Plan of Action) in a district for which subsequent laboratory tests confirm that the case was due to wild polio-virus;

b) Monitor the initiative of elimination of measles in the English-speaking Caribbean countries, Canada, Cuba, and the United States of America, since its success will be critical for the development of strategies for the elimination of measles from the whole of the Americas;

c) Maintain the same priority accorded so far to this program and to report to the XXIII Pan American Sanitary Conference in 1990 on the achievements of the targets that were established for this program.

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